Choosing a Major

There were two times Alyce Cheska’s father said no. One was when her sister wanted to play tennis professionally after high school. And the other was when Cheska was getting ready to go to college. She had a four-year scholarship to the University of Chicago to study anthropology. He looked at the cost of living in Chicago and decided that it was too expensive to send both of his daughters to college at the same time.

Cheska went to The University of Minnesota in Duluth, five blocks away from her house. She then became interested in oil painting in 1971. Upon returning to Illinois, Cheska attended workshops and took up art classes at Parkland and at the University of Illinois. Her favorite scenes to paint are oceans, storms and waves crashing because she loves the water. She grew up just 18 blocks from Lake Superior, but did not learn to swim until she was a junior in college. Many of her paintings were done on location in Nova Scotia.

"That kind of blew my mind, when I realized that all cultures have some sort of similarity in their society. You just have to look for it."